

CONCLUSION

The Medicare program has served our seniors well. It has provided them with quality health care, and, equally important, a sense of security that their basic health care needs will be met. It does not cover all the services and treatments seniors need, but it is a primary safety net for them.

Americans contribute throughout their working lives to finance the Medicare system. They deserve the assurance of access to medical care during their older years. Congress must focus on maintaining those assurances. Medicare is not a faceless government program to be slashed at blindly; it is a fundamental source of security for seniors. They have earned the benefits, and I will continue to work to ensure they receive what is justly theirs.

MOTHER A.M.E. ZION CHURCH: 200
YEARS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention a church in my congressional district which is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year, and is the oldest African-American congregation in the State of New York.

The church I am speaking of is the historic Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, affectionately called Mother Zion.

Mother Zion Church is the mother of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Connection, who was popularly known as the Freedom Church because of its pivotal role in the abolitionist movement. Many conference churches, including Mother Zion, served as stations on the underground railroad.

Mother Zion Church has been served by 29 pastors in its history; two were elected bishops: Rt. Rev. James Walter Brown and Rt. Rev. Alfred Gilbert Dunston.

As the pastor, Dr. Alvin T. Durant, and the members of Mother AME Zion Church rejoice in this bicentennial year ongoing celebration, I extend to them my congratulations, friendship, and support as they go forth honoring 200 years of Christian service.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL ARTS
CLUB

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the National Arts Club's "50, 75, 100, 125" program during this past season. This program honors significant institutions in New York City which have celebrated major anniversaries this year. I am proud to offer this tribute at the conclusion of a very successful celebratory season.

This year, the National Arts Club, through its Roundtable Committee, sponsored a series of events to recognize major institutions such as the Performing Arts Library at Lincoln Center, the United Nations, the American Academy in Rome, the New York State Bar Association, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

I am proud to report that the National Arts Club also honored the International Olympic Committee which celebrated its 100 year anniversary this year. In honor of the International Olympic Committee's anniversary and of the Centennial Games to be held in July, earlier this month, the National Arts Club commemorated the publication of "The Olympic Image—The First 100 Years."

The National Arts Club has contributed to the cultural, educational, and diplomatic communities of New York City since its inception in 1898. Through series such as "50, 75, 100, 125," the National Arts Club seeks to reward the efforts of unique institutions making a significant difference in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in this tribute by rising in honor of the National Arts Club for its celebration of New York City's extraordinary institutions. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR B.
CAMPBELL

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arthur B. Campbell of Wakefield, RI for his 31 years of dedicated service to the South Kingstown Public School System. As a teacher and as superintendent for the past 12 years, Mr. Campbell has been an outstanding educational leader.

In 1965, Mr. Campbell began his career in the South Kingstown Public Schools as a junior high instructor. While serving in this capacity, Mr. Campbell also became president of the local teachers' union, leading the first strike in the town's history. He was instrumental in forming the Rhode Island National Education Association's first political action group.

Mr. Campbell was promoted to director of instruction in 1972, and then to the post of superintendent of schools in 1984. During his tenure in this position, he guided the district through an unprecedented period of population growth. With his vision and professionalism, the district met this challenge without compromising student safety or academic integrity. His leadership made possible the emergence of modern educational facilities with dynamic and capable faculty, and students who rank among our State and our Nation's best and brightest.

In addition, known for his expertise and leadership in the school budget process, Mr. Campbell has ensured the efficient operation of school department finances, providing a healthy educational future for all South Kingstown schools.

In today's increasingly competitive job market, a quality education is absolutely necessary for success and advancement. Mr. Campbell's proactive approach toward achieving educational excellence has made these opportunities available to our young people. His accomplishments clearly demonstrate that an investment in education is indeed an investment in the future.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Arthur Campbell's retirement, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding administrator and educator.

PROTECT DRINKING WATER FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend this Republican Congress for passing sound, safe, commonsense legislation to ensure that America's drinking water is clean and healthy for our loved ones and future generations to enjoy. Safe drinking water is of vital importance to San Diego, where nearly all of our waters is imported from the Colorado River and northern California, crossing many fault lines. Because there is such a limited supply of water, San Diegans do not take their water for granted. San Diegans, like all Americans, want water that is safe to consume.

One of my priorities in the 104th Congress is to protect the health and safety of American families. The House's passage Tuesday of the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments (H.R. 3604) sends a clear message to families that Republicans are committed to improving and protecting water quality and the environment. I am proud to support this legislation.

By passing this legislation, we give State and local water authorities the resources they need to keep our water safe. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California supports the bill because it will "enable public water systems to address the highest priority water quality issues first." The bill contains a strong community right-to-know provision, requiring public notification within 24 hours when water safety violations occur. It focuses resources, where they will do the most good, on eliminating contaminants that pose the greatest risk to people. Moreover, the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments establishes a State revolving fund to help public water systems comply with drinking water standards.

This legislation received broad bipartisan support. The Nation's Governors, State and county legislators, local water authorities, and several environmental groups support our safe drinking water bill. A commonsense approach has proven successful in protecting water quality, and we can reach consensus on other environmental issues through this same approach. I am proud to joining my colleagues in the proenvironment Congress in passing H.R. 3604.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS'
NURSING CARE AVAILABILITY
ACT OF 1996

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans' Nursing Care Availability Act of 1996. This important legislation will help correct a flaw that exists in the way that the Department of Veterans Affairs ranks applications for its State Extended Care Facilities grant program.

The State Extended Care Facilities grant program provides Federal funding for up to 65 percent of the total cost for the construction of